Friday, December 24, 2010 · 7 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 16 · P18 · www.inquirer.net

Holiday miracle: Public teachers get full bonus

By Tara Quismundo

IT WAS truly a Gift of the Magi.

Public school teachers received a holiday miracle just before Christmas Eve as they finally got hold of their P10,000 bonus in full—a first after a tradition of partial releases in the past years.

The Teachers' Dignity Coalition (TDC) yesterday said teachers from most of the regions around the country reported full receipt of their

HOLIDAY/A4

SPORTS — **Azkal's** upset of Vietnam among Sports Illustrated's Top 10 football stories

ACROSS — **3** kidnap victims rescued by police

LIFESTYLE — **Now's** your chance to dress up à la Tessa Prieto-Valdes

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



Laguna rapist-killer also wants out of jail

By Chona Yu and Volt Contreras

A FORMER mayor sentenced to more than 300 years in jail for rape and murder wants to join the December procession out of prison.

Claiming he's now eligible for either pardon or parole, ex-mayor Antonio Sanchez of Calauan, Laguna, contends

LAGUNA/A6

AFP chief of staff: No to Garcia deal

DOJ rediscovers tax evasion charge against accused



BIG BANG A howitzer-like cannon made of bamboo is fired during Wednesday's Kanyong Kawayan Festival (Bamboo Canon Festival) in Kidapawan City as part of the local government's campaign to discourage people from setting off deadly firecrackers during the Christmas season. AP

By Cynthia D. Balana and Nikko Dizon

THE CHIEF of staff of the Armed Forces is opposed to the plea bargain between the Office of the Ombudsman and retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, who is accused of amassing P303 million while serving as military comptroller.

In an interview yesterday at Camp Aguinaldo, Gen. Ricardo David said the 120,000-strong military establishment would rather see Garcia's trial for plunder proceed in court, and hinted that the military brass was moving to derail the agreement.

"The position of the Armed Forces is not to have a plea bargain on the charges," David said. "If you are asking if the Armed Forces is for the plea bargain, no. We in the Armed Forces, we do not like [it]. We should proceed with the case."

Garcia, who is free on P60,000 bail, is now the subject of a hold departure order, the

AFP/A6



LACSON: Smaller circle of remedies

Lacson's bid for new probe rejected

By Nikko Dizon

FUGITIVE SEN. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson appears to be running out of cards to play.

A Manila trial judge has denied Lacson's latest attempt to seek a reinvestigation of the double murder charge filed against him in connection with the 2000 slaying of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said yesterday.

"His circle of remedies is getting smaller and smaller. He has only the Court of Appeals left and that's it," she said at a press conference.

De Lima distributed copies of a Dec. 23 order by Judge Thelma Bunyi-Medina of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 18 denying

LACSON/A6

A rare triple celestial treat

By Winston A. Marbella
Contributor

TO HERALD the coming of the Yuletide season, the heavens put on an awesome celestial show, recalling the first Christmas when a comet lit up the night sky and a supernova (exploding star) ignited a fireworks display visible for days around the world even in the daytime.

This time, as if to reflect the joy in the heavens, we were treated to a rare "celestial trilogy," three events occurring at the same time. As the moon rose on Tuesday night, the world witnessed a total lunar eclipse and a "seleneliox" occurring on the "Long Night Moon" as the

A RARE/A4

For tent dwellers, new home is best gift

By Inquirer Northern and Central Luzon

ROSALES, Pangasinan—Red, green and silver strands of tinsel adorn the entrance to Frank Palaganas' new home, promising a joyous Yuletide season.

The 41-year-old Palaganas is among several hundred typhoon victims who are celebrating this Christmas in new homes in Pangasinan and Pampanga—thanks to the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the World Food Programme (WFP).

Palaganas and his wife, Elisa, 44, plan to prepare a small feast for their children—Michael, 22, Francis, 13, and Princess, 3—today and to give a few gifts to remind them of the first Christmas they will spend in their house at Barangay Bolingcanaway in Rosales.

Last year, they slept through Christmas Eve in a five-square meter tent they shared with another family of five at "Tent City," a relocation site for victims of Typhoon "Pepeng" in October.

"It was a sad time for us," said Palaganas.

In July, the PNRC distributed to 380 typhoon victims housing materials consisting of galvanized iron roofs, bamboo mats and posts and a toilet set. They were also given lands in Barangay Bolingcanaway by the Rosales government, which spent P1.5 million plus P750,000 worth of donations for the project.

In September, Palaganas and his family moved to their new house on a 20-square meter plot.

FOR TENT/A8

Slain botanist's kin lament slow probe

By Leila B. Salaverria and Kristine L. Alave

THE FORTIETH day of botanist Leonard Co's death was marked yesterday, and the inquiry into how he and two guides were killed last month in the forest of Kananga, Leyte, has yet to produce results.

Members of Co's family see no urgency in the actions of the investigators assigned to determine the circumstances behind the killings, according to their lawyer, Evalyn Ursua.

"We're worried that the investigation is moving slowly," Ursua told Inquirer editors and reporters earlier this month. "We think this case is not being prioritized by the government."

Present at the interview were Co's parents Lian Seng and Kaisiroe Co, sister Lorna, wife Glenda, daughter Linnaei Marie, brother-in-law Darwin Flores, and colleague Giovanni Tapang.

Lian Seng Co said he wanted justice for his son and was hoping that the Aquino administration would do something about the case.

In a statement issued yesterday

SLAIN/A8



MEMORIAL TREE Leonard Co's mother Kaisiroe plants a native tree seedling in remembrance of the slain botanist.

New plant species named after Co



PALAWAN FIND: One of a kind pitcher plant

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Scientists recently announced the discovery of a "magnificent" new species of pitcher plant in central Palawan and said they would name it after the late Filipino botanist Leonardo Co.

The new species, believed by its discoverers to be the only one of its kind in the world, is distinguished by its unusual dark streaks and enlarged traps, according to the latest post in the scientists' website Redfern Natural History Productions.

It was found by scientists Greg Bourke, Mark Jaunzems, Jehson Cervancia and Stewart McPherson in the Victoria-Anepahan Range in the central area of the Palawan mainland where other new species of the carnivorous plant had been discovered.

"This magnificent new plant is closely related to N. mira/N. deaniana/N. gracilis group but has distinctive pitcher morphology, and, uniquely among Palawan Nepenthes, can produce pitchers that are extremely dark, almost black," the scientists said in the website.

They said the black strains were not typical

NEW PLANT/A8

Second FRONTPAGE

'IT AIN'T OVER TILL IT'S OVER'

Palace presses fight for EO1

By Nikko Dizon

SAYING "it ain't over till it's over," Malacañang yesterday appealed a Supreme Court decision declaring as unconstitutional President Aquino's creation of a Truth Commission to investigate corruption under the Arroyo administration.

Solicitor General Jose Anselmo Cadiz filed a 58-page motion for reconsideration a week before the Dec. 28 deadline, attacking the high tribunal's ruling Dec. 7 that Mr. Aquino's Executive Order No. 1 violated the Constitution's "equal protection" clause.

"Hope springs eternal," Cadiz said. "Or as the great New York Yankee baseball manager (Yogi Berra) said, 'It ain't over till it's over.'"

Section 1 of Article III on the bill of rights states that "no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws."

It was copied from the 14th amendment of the US Constitution enacted in 1868 following the abolition of slavery in the aftermath of the American Civil War when ex-Confederate states passed laws restricting the power of blacks to own property.

'Class by itself'

"We are not discriminating against the previous administration," Cadiz said of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, now a Pampanga representative in Congress. "In fact, the previous administration is so different from the rest. For one, it had a nine-year term so it is really a class by itself."

"To rule that the previous administration cannot be the subject of a fact-finding inquiry as a class ... will result in the conferment to that particular administration of a privilege not heretofore enjoyed by past administrations—the privilege of immunity from any inquiry, fact-finding or otherwise, into its transactions," the motion said.

"For another, the effects and magnitude of alleged corruption during the past administration sufficiently distinguishes it from other previous administrations as to identify it as a subject of inquiry to address legitimate concerns," it said.

"The executive is tasked to ensure that transparency in government and the faithful execution of anticorruption laws as an enduring public policy enshrined in the Fundamental Law is vigorously pursued.

"Preventing the PTC (Philippine Truth Commission), hence the Executive, from finding facts which would serve as basis for the execution of anticorruption laws, thwarts this constitutional mandate and cultivates a culture of impunity for public officials," the motion said.

With a report from Norman Bordadora

Flight attendants win round vs PAL

By Philip C. Tubeza

LABOR Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz yesterday granted the request of the flight attendants' union of Philippine Airlines (PAL) to increase their members' compulsory retirement age, credit their maternity leaves to their length of service, and get salary increases.

In a statement, the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) said Baldoz yesterday signed her 21-page ruling on the labor row between the Flight Attendants' and Stewards' Association of the Philippines (Fasap) and PAL. She assumed jurisdiction over the case three months ago.

The ruling dealt with issues involving alleged gender discrimination in the Fasap members' retirement age—a major issue for the union—their maternity and pregnancy leave benefits, and an economic package for Fasap's 1,642 members.

"Baldoz found it fair and reasonable to award ... compulsory retirement age for all Fasap members at 60 years old," the statement said.

Fasap has criticized the "unreasonable retirement age being imposed by PAL," where female flight attendants hired before [illegible] are required to retire by the age of 55 or five years before the mandatory retirement age of 60.

Good weather forecast for Christmas; year ends with fewer storms

By Kristine L. Alave

THERE WILL be no storms to put a damper on the Christmas weekend, but expect cloudy skies, the government weather agency said.

In its advisory for the holiday weekend, Pagasa said clouds, scattered rainshowers, and thunderstorms will be felt in Southern Luzon and parts of the Visayas because of the cold front and the wind convergence.

The rest of the Philippines should expect mild weather, it said.

"Good weather condition is expected to prevail over the rest of the country aside from isolated rainshowers," Pagasa noted.

No tropical cyclone is seen to enter the country over the weekend, Pagasa said. A low pressure area was sighted 300 km east of Mindanao on Friday but it would be unlikely to develop into a tropical cyclone, the agency said.

Sea vessels are advised to be cautious as moderate to strong northeasterly winds will continue to prevail over Luzon and the Visayas. Pagasa said coastal waters will be moderate to rough.

Fishermen along the seaboards of Luzon were told to be alert against moderate to high waves generated by the strong northeasterly winds.

Meanwhile, Pagasa said there were only 11 tropical cyclones that entered the country this year.

Christina Ungson, a Pagasa staff member, said the number was the lowest in Pagasa's recorded history and it is tied with the number of typhoons in 1998.

The Philippines is visited by 19-20 typhoons a year on average, Ungson said.

She noted that the dearth of typhoons could be a characteristic of the El Niño period, which in the Philippines means lack of rainfall and fewer tropical cyclones.

The years 2010 and 1998 were similar as both came after an El Niño year. Ungson said the 1997 El Niño was one of the most severe weather phenomenon in recent history.

A rare triple celestial treat this Yule







LUNAR eclipse as seen in New York on Tuesday

Coming light

Holiday miracle

BDO

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Over 300 BDO branches are open on Dec. 24 and 27 for your convenience.

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We find ways®

www.bdo.com.ph

METRO MANILA

LUZON

VISAYAS

MINDANAO

All branches will be closed on December 25. Regular BDO Sunday banking schedule applies on December 26.

AFP chief of staff: No to Garcia plea bargain

[illegible]

P3.4M short

[illegible]

It 'should never happen'

[illegible]



HONASAN



GARCIA



DAVID

Accountability

[illegible]

Gutierrez's order

[illegible]

Gringo's 'mistah'

[illegible]

'Very offended party'

[illegible]

Lacson's bid for new probe rejected

[illegible]

Medina's reasons

[illegible]

A vindication

[illegible]

Manhunt goes on

[illegible]

Laguna rapist-killer also wants out of jail

[illegible]



SANCHEZ: Convicted rapist-killer

'Matched in hell'

[illegible]

'I can still win'

[illegible]

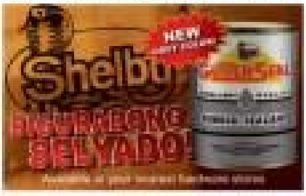
Politics blamed

[illegible]

360 years in jail

[illegible]

5 of 'Morong 43' may walk Monday





Kapampangans Noynoy, apl.de.ap meet at Palace

Accounting program for hospitality firms







TENT DWELLERS NO MORE

For tent dwellers, new home is best gift

Dream come true

Food for work

Symbol of partnership

Happiest Christmas

Safe in new home

Slain botanist's kin lament slow probe



2 weeks

Uncooperative military

Field work

'Trees will grow'

New plant species named after Co

'Sad irony'

There's 'pork' for all, friend or foe

7 of 10 Pinoys see a happy Christmas

The Daily Gospel

Friday December 24, 2010

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Slow down

EDITORIAL



Lesson in Garcia plea bargain: Crime pays

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

The other Garci walks free as well

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

Christmas, law and solidarity

COMMENTARY

Roberto E. N. Rivera, S.J.

P-Noy among friends

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

Drop the diet

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

Gifts

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

OPINION

Peace, learn it from children

LETTERS

An unfair indictment of COA as an institution

SolGen didn't berate SC

Problem with 'activist,' 'militant,' 'terrorist' tags

Across the NATION

3 kidnap victims rescued by police



CAROLING

Separate raids set free Tsinoy student, 2 kids

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Three kidnap victims—one taken by the Abu Sayyaf and two children snatched by their uncle—were separately rescued in Sulu and North Cotabato this week, authorities announced Thursday.



KIDNAPPED Chinese-Filipino student Kenn Clifford Lee is presented at a Philippine National Police camp after his rescue from kidnappers in Sulu.

Surprised bandits

Surveillance

Plan to put LGUs in charge of STL bared

NEWSBRIEFS

LAGUNA

Cop's gun kills vendor

2 in Hall of Fame

NAGA CITY

Troops thank P-Noy

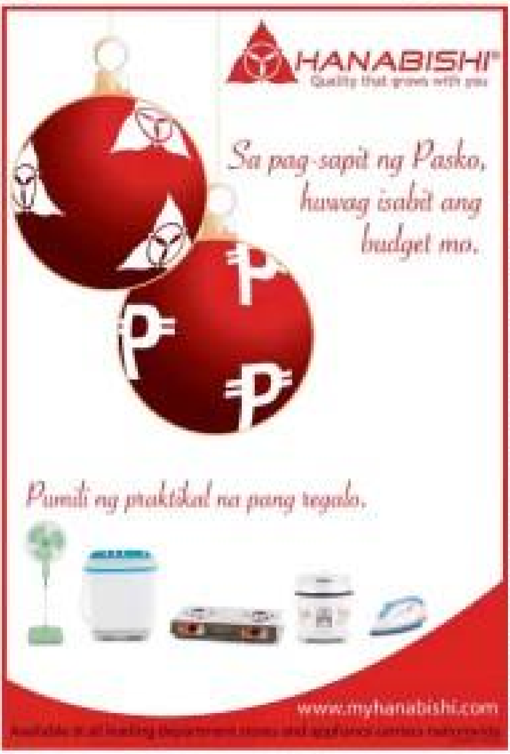
BUKIDNON

Bukidnon thanks 2 sons



SOLDIERS display martial arts skills during the AFP's 75th anniversary celebration at Camp Aguinaldo.

BACOLOD CITY





Big BPO firm vows more jobs

TravelTour Expo set Feb. 18-20



Conservation of biodiversity: A call to action



Our freshwater biodiversity: The real score

The culprit

What is being done?

The Chester Experience



In our neck of the woods...



Freshwater biodiversity conservation: Philippine style



SPORTS

Editor: Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor: Francis T.J. Ochoa

SCORE TALLY

Celtics 84, 76ers 80; Jazz 112, Timberwolves 107; Bulls 87, Wizards 80; Spurs 109, Nuggets 93; Knicks 112, Thunder 98; Pistons 115, Raptors 93; Hawks 98, Cavaliers 88; Rockets 97, Clippers 92; Hornets 108, Nets 91



GARCIA

PSC seeks sports agreements with Australia, Russia

By June Navarro

Booters' upset of Vietnam gets SI top 10 nod

By Cedelf P. Tupas



STRIKER Ian Araneta ...

PH-Indonesia game 2 rates higher than SMB-Air21

By Ronnie Nathanielsz

Fifa decision averts long leadership dispute

INSIDE SPORTS

Ronnie Nathanielsz



Philippines hosts 2013 Asian Beach tilt in Cebu

By June Navarro



COJUANGCO



SHEIKH Al-Sabah

Patrombon chooses tennis over studies



Nadal trips Federer, levels charity series

Celtics nip 76ers, boosts run to 14



Saludar KOs foe, keeps WBO crown

Hur, Monsalve rule S'woods Chair's Cup

It's time for Christmas calm

ONE GAME AT A TIME



Sev Sarmenta

St. Jude grabs Tiong Lian lead

Best Center opens Jan. 8

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	iPhone 4 16GB			
✔ iPhone	₱9,899 or ₱824.92/mo*	₱8,399 or ₱699.92/mo*	FREE	FREE
	iPhone 4 32GB			
+	₱15,399 or ₱1,283.25/mo*	₱13,799 or ₱1,149.92/mo*	₱6,399 or ₱533.25/mo*	FREE
✔ Extra FREEBIES	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Suggested freebie for iPhone users	[illegible]	7 D = 21 hours of mobile surfing	F = Super Surf (unlimited surfing)	

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Visit www.globe.com.ph, your nearest Globe Store or call (02) 730-1000 now.

Globe

iPhone 4

A plus
METRO
Editor: Abelardo S. Ulanday

Manila cops kill hostage taker

Man panics, grabs partner's son during police interrogation

The police shot and killed on Wednesday night a man who tried to keep them at bay by taking the seven-year-old son of his live-in partner hostage.

[illegible]



HARD AT PLAY

[illegible]

QC prosecutor files raps against bus driver in crash that killed couple

[illegible]



A CROWD [illegible] Quezon City

NCRPO chief checks security in malls, transport terminals

[illegible]



A WOMAN [illegible] Quezon City

DID YOU KNOW

[illegible]

A sense of community in the city



[illegible]

Hand grenade explodes in front of trader's QC house



CHOLESTEROL OVERLOAD

Ma, sis hurt; death threat angle eyed

By Julie M. Aurelio

No injuries

Men on motorcycles

On way out

Contaminated food may be cause of girl's death

By Kristine Felisse Mangunay

Possible source

First aid

HOLIDAY HEIST

Burglars break into trader's house, take P2M

By Julie M. Aurelio

Robbers dig tunnel leading to pawnshop, make off with P1.3M

By Tina G. Santos

Scavenger finds body of dead newborn baby in garbage pile

By Tina G. Santos



HOLIDAY INCENTIVE

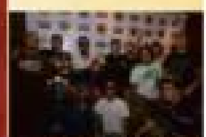
MANILA BEER ROCK ON MANILA GIVES BACK THIS CHRISTMAS

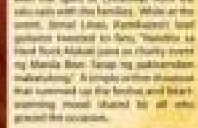
12 top Pinoy Rock bands come together to give a rockin' holiday for 12 aspiring young musicians and their families from Bukas Palad Foundation















The WORLD



South Korea holds massive new drills

POCHEON, South Korea—South Korean fighter jets dropped bombs and tanks fired artillery on Thursday as the military staged its largest air-and-ground firing drills of the year in a show of force a month after North Korea's deadly shelling of a front-line island.



AP

Kremlin hails US approval of nuke pact

AP

WorldBriefs

Ban on gays repealed

AP

Skype service down

Reuters

WikiLeaks suspect

'Provocation' trees

AP

'Large Guy' convicted

AP

IN THIS ISSUE

BUSINESS

GDP growth seen at 6-7% this year

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

44.040



STOCK MARKET

52.35



Stocks end higher

LOCAL STOCKS surged yesterday, the last trading day before Christmas, as window dressing activities ahead of the long holiday break alongside upbeat global markets fueled a Santa Claus rally.

Neda says industry, services fueled expansion

THE PHILIPPINE economy, as measured by the gross domestic product (GDP), was expected to have expanded by 6-7 percent in 2010, most likely surpassing the government's target range of 5 to 6 percent.

BSP expects broad-based expansion in '11

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has expressed optimism that the country's growth in 2011 would be more geographically broad-based rather than capital centric, citing development opportunities in the rural areas.

Business *Friday*

In-store gimmicks that keep you coming back





Burger King's free massage

Ryuma's spin a prize for kids

EK's new game booth



GK residents make money through Christmas ham





How to attract new customer segments

Marketing Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

PNR gets P250-M gov't funding for train cars

Shipment cost of donated trains from Japan

GDP growth seen at 6-7% this year

Stocks end higher

BSP expects . . .

Currencies

PRULINK — PRU LIFE UK



CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

Shellfish Bulletin No. 31
Series of 2010



All types of shellfish and Acetes sp. or alamang gathered from the areas shown above are NOT SAFE for human consumption.

Officer-in-Charge

ISCPI
International Ship Crewmanagement Phils., Inc.

NOTICE OF VARIOUS CHANGES OF OFFICERS AND STAFF OF INTERNATIONAL SHIP CREWMANAGEMENT PHIL., INC.

Pursuant to POEA Rules and Regulation, the public is hereby notified of the following list of Officers and Staff of ISCPI who resigned and the appointment of new personnel to wit:

1) Resigned — Position
2) New Appointment — Position

(Sgd.) Atty. Adolfo B. Clavo
Corporate Secretary

NOTICE

JOB Market Libre

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INVITATION TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

INVITATION TO BID

CONTRACT NAME	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	FUNDING SOURCE
LTO Supply, Production and Delivery of Driver's License Cards	[illegible]	FY 2011 Budget per National Expenditure Program for FY 2011

The deadline for the submission of LOI is on **15 February 2011.**

Assistant Secretary and SBAC Chairman

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Regional Director

OBITUARIES

Milagros Ledesma de la Torre

A member of the Teresian Association left for eternal life with her Creator on December 14, 2010 in Fundidor, Molo, Iloilo City

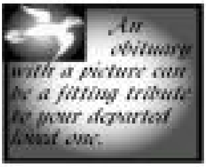
Her remains lie in state at her family home in VML Subd., Taeza St., Fundidor, Molo, Iloilo City and will be transferred to Josefa Segovia Student Center, 14 General Luna St., Iloilo City on December 28, 2010.

Interment will be on December 29, 2010 at the Garden of St. Theresa, Villa, Iloilo City after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at St. Anne Parish Church, Molo, Iloilo City.

"Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed."
– Joshua 23:14

In Loving Memory





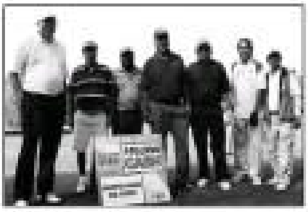


Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEP/S)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

INVITATION TO BID

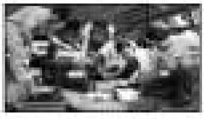


SKYWEST GOLF COURSE INAUGURATION

Smart engineers train for disaster preparedness

Growth with Equity in Mindanao Program

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL



BUSINESS

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

Group buys AG&P from DMCI

By Doris C. Dumlao

DMCI HOLDINGS Inc. has sold for P1.75 billion its entire 98.18-percent stake in construction-related business unit Atlantic Gulf & Pacific Co. of Manila Inc. (AG&P) to a consortium that included a Kuwaiti investment company.

The buyer is a group of local and foreign private investors that includes Kuwaiti fund KCIC and several key personalities with expertise in the oil and gas industry as well as international finance, DMCI said in a press statement issued yesterday.

The consortium will make the acquisition through AGP Philippines Holdings I Inc., in which each consortium member has a minority stake.

In a separate disclosure, DMCI said the shares under the deal consisted of 9.97 billion shares either directly or beneficially owned by the company.

"We are very excited about our new ownership structure as it will allow us to further strengthen our already strong infrastructure and management team. We will become even better partners for our clients and other stakeholders," said AG&P chief executive officer Lito Bernardo.

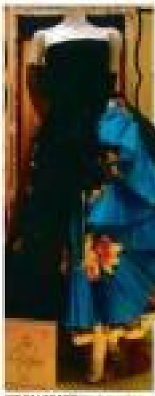
LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty



Now's your chance to dress up à la Tessa Prieto-Valdes



She's auctioning off 14 of her traffic-stopping gowns, including probably two of the last pieces the late Joe Salazar did for her



Choice pieces





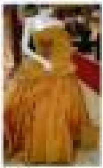




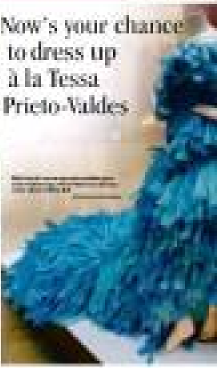


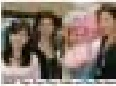


It's a Christmas Kaleidoscope at Eastwood City



Now's your chance to dress up à la Tessa Prieto-Valdes

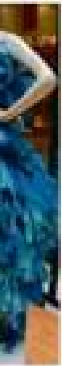




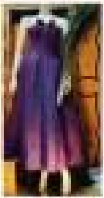


BDO Titanium and Platinum Cards





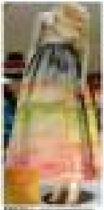




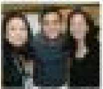








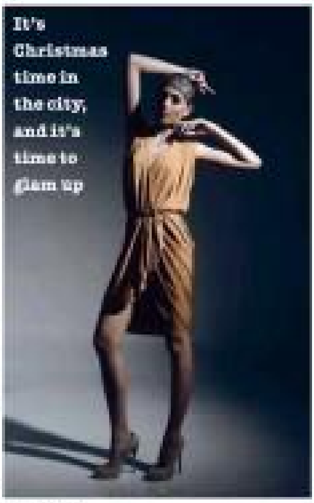




...make holiday travel a breeze

Rediscovering the Filipino Christmas through carols and fiesta ham

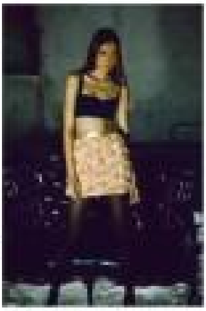




Dress in holiday style!



Jenni J. Epperson







LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty



Virtual application gives one the real feel of new Bulgari watch








MOI with Rhea de Vera-Aguirre and Lea Santo


MODELS in Indian dresses with special-edition LV leather bags


FREDERIC Marcotte with LV Philippines brand director Rhea de Vera-Aguirre and LV GM for Micronesia and Philippines Edouard Bosmi, at the Diwali Festival of Lights-themed store event

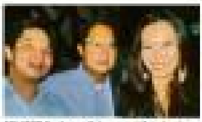
Indian light festival highlights top luxury brand's new collections


CHRIS Ziaporsda-Rodriguez with Cristina Sandiko-Macapagal and Allan Holmes


CURIS Ford with Jenny Miller and Charles Lhuillier


PAM-Jo los Reyes with Mart Bokanis, Lucas Mechenbeltz and David Margenstern


JACINTA Joson with Michelle Ng, Oliver Mendez and Alexa Reiffmann


ERNEST Sy, Arnon Palomo and Stephanie Alveiro


FRANCO Makama with MC Pardon, Ben Puno and Sandra Paredes


ANNICKA Dolonius and Bodi del Rosario


SARA Acinl and Carol Garcia

THE MERE mention of the world-renowned brand, Louis Vuitton, would bring in the town's high networth but low-profile types. And they, in fact, came in droves for Louis Vuitton's yuletide event at Greenbelt 3.

The event celebrated the holiday season in a most unique way, transforming the store to the Indian Diwali Festival of Lights, which served as the inspiration for Louis Vuitton's holiday displays all over the world, yuletide.

Setting us for this colorful happening was LV's vice chairman GM for Micronesia and the Philippines, Edouard Bosmi.

Without Batting An Eyelash

Maurice Arcache



Photos by Alick Van Hagen
powered by [illegible]

LV's Philippines brand director Rhea de Vera-Aguirre welcomed the guests, who were immediately treated to a visual feast of exotic floral arrangements composed of coral flowers, orange-colored irises, roses and carnations.

Chef Aranda of the Peninsula Manila exclusively created excellent canapés infused with Indian spices. Meanwhile, the Bollywood fusion lounge music of DJ Arvin Perez was the perfect background music for this exotic event.

The highlight was the launch of high-end Louis Vuitton watches and jewelry that were brought in especially for this event. The limited-edition items were quickly snapped up faster than you could bat an eyelash, dahlings.

One wouldn't miss the iconic Tambour in black watches and the Emprise jewelry collection. Wow!

Eye-catching Indian models showcased LV's awesome exotic evening bags and the new Monogram Empreinte line, the newest collection of high-end leather bags, handcrafted using the softest monogrammed calfskin.

Lucky clients and guests left the store with all shapes of Louis Vuitton paper bags, filled with LV's status-symbol products, nonetheless, dahlings.

Going around with champagne flute in hand were Lifestyle Asia's Anton San Diego, Tatler's Mia Borromeo and Vicki de Leon, Pepper Fernandez, Irene Uy and Ruby Gan.

Louis Vuitton offers free mail-order service to key cities in the Philippines. Log on to www.louisvuitton.com for more info, or contact Vanessa Mapanga-Bautista at (632) 8409978. E-mail: [illegible]

Establishment crowd

That chic Establishment @ The Fort Strip held its final Fashion Friday last week, with gorgeous Dana Gan hosting the event.

The gig was attended by the VIP partying pack as well as eye-catching models, a slash of celebrities and A-listers, who boozed and rocked the dance floor with the pumping house beat by DJ Christian Bautista. Club owner was the dashing man-about-town, Oliver Mendez.

The guests came in their fashionable best, dahlings. Once the free-flowing drinks started, everyone got on the roll and hit the dance floor.

Had a great time with my friends, but as always I had to dash off to another happening at Stats on the side of town. But not before I spotted Charles Lhuillier, businessman, jeweler and connoisseur (Bolonia); Elise Dhal, model, social entrepreneur and executive director of MyShelter Foundation; Anton Palomo of Ethigroo; Mary Lagdameo of One High Street (a new condo development at The Fort); Ike Siruwathan, CEO of Stuff Virtual; Michelle Tenter, Aussie model and actress and finalist in "Amazing Race"; Michelle Ng, Singaporean actress and model, also from "Amazing Race"; Alexa Reiffmann, Los Angeles model and artist; Benjamin Tang, French model; Emily Ferrara, US-Aussie model; Cristina Sandiko-Macapagal, businesswoman and stylist; Toronto socialite; Chris Ziaporsda-Rodriguez; Jenny Miller, actress and spouse of businessman Gujid Ford, both of whom had just jetted in from their European honeymoon; Robert Davis of Kingdom Hotel Investments; Shaffer Sultan, Makati; Romanian models Laura Carla and Claudia Mircea; Julia Clarete, actress and TV personality; Lucas Mechenbeltz of the Asian Development Bank, with his wife Mart Bokanis; Alicia Robes of the DJ Embassy; Ben Puno of Club Encore; businessman Danilo Puno and Charade Galang of GMA; Manolo Alcantara, Carol Garcia, model and visual artist; Milena Krukalova, Coach model; Ernest Sy, Stephanie Alveiro, lawyer; Franco Makama, MC Pardon, Sandra Paredes; Pam de los Reyes of Wolf Lifestyle (Greenbelt 5); and David Margenstern of the ADB.

Oliver thanked all his well-wishers. "I'm looking forward to seeing you all before I fly out to Las Vegas for my big 2nd birthday bash at the Hotel nightclub in the Palms Hotel," he said.


SALOME Uy and Ingrid Chua-Go


SHERRY H [illegible], designer from Bangkok


DANA Gan, Coach model and Fashion Friday host, with businessman club owner Oliver Mendez and Coach model Milena Krukalova, PR lady of Establishment


MARIA Klara Corolla


CAROLINE Andrada


ART CONNOISSEUR Patrick Reyno and Tatler's Mia Borromeo


ANNETTE Aldon and Joan Baliotti


MYRA Capanzo with Tessa Martinez and Christina Vicente


LV PHILIPPINES clienteling manager Dora Chard with Ruby Gan

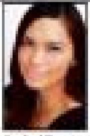

CLAUDIA Mircea and Laura Carla with Julia Clarete


MARY Lagdameo with Oliver Mendez, Ike Siruwathan and Robert Davis

Hot picks from celebrity 'kikay' kits

The colors, makeup, skincare you need to survive the season

BACKSTAGE PASS



Isabel Roces

IS IT just me, or is there something about the holidays that makes me want to play with beauty routines and experiment with color?



GEORGIA Schulze-del Rosario with kids.





Ocampo's easy elegance

He plays up the shoulders and the neckline

THE MODERN woman who inspires Ehren Ocampo's SM holiday collection is one who wants it all.

[illegible]



GLITZ AND GLAM. Black asymmetrical dress dusted with sequins



A ROYAL EVENING. Black taffeta bustier dress gathered at the side and accented with sequins and beads



A HOLIDAY GLOW. [illegible]



SHEER GENIUS. [illegible]



BLACK BEAUTY. [illegible]

Entertainment

Living Stars

A new home for Ynna Asistio



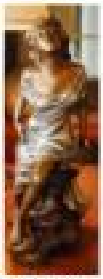




SHARON CUNETA

I KNOW times are tough now and everyone is working so hard. But if I were President, I would give deserving Filipinos a whole week off from work this holiday season, so that they can reconnect with the people they love most. In exchange, I'd ask them to perform random acts of kindness to friends, acquaintances, even perfect strangers. Just one good deed. I feel that we all have to go back to basics. This will help us get in touch with ourselves again, with our hearts of hearts. I promise you it will recharge everyone who will make good use of that "free" week. I am certain that it will also inspire everyone to make a small difference in the world.

Bayani San Diego Jr.



By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Gabe Pernandez

CHRISTMAS will be a little different for actress Ynna Asistio this year.

Unlike in previous years when her relatives gather in one house, Ynna said they plan to celebrate the holidays by going out of town. "We want to show our grandma around. She's been staying in the United States for many years, but starting this year she'll live with us for good," the 19-year-old actress tells Living Stars.

Each year on Christmas Day, Ynna says her mom, former actress Nadia Montenegro, makes "the yummiest Noche Buena feast ever."

"Mama cooks her special caldereta and Spanish sardine spaghetti. We order lechon and roast chicken. My Lola makes her famous dessert, the tapioca, which is made from pudding, sago and vanilla," she says. "Even if we're going away on the 25th, we'll still have Christmas dinner at home."

It has only been four months since Ynna's family transferred to this seven-bedroom, three-storey home in Ayala Heights, Quezon City. Ynna's aunt, Tanya, and her own family moved out of their condo unit in Libis to join the Asistios.

"In the past, we start decorating the house as early as September. Since we just moved here recently, we hardly have the time," says Ynna. In fact, she only bought the 8-foot Christmas tree and its silver-and-blue trimmings on the first week of December.

HOME D3



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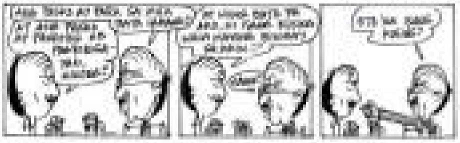
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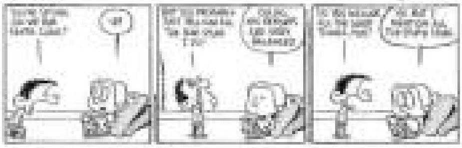
DICK TRACY



LOVELINES



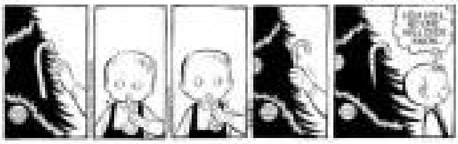
BABY BLUES



KIKO MACHINE

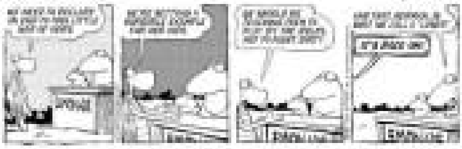


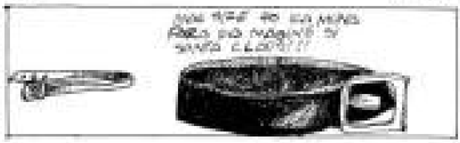
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SHERMAN'S LAGOON





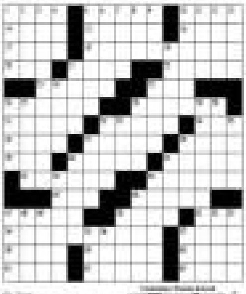
CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

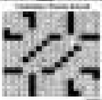
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

			6	3	8			
		3				4		
	7						1	
7			8		2			1
8								9
4			1		6			5
	9						2	
		7				3		
			3	7	4			

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





A new home...



NADIA and Yana enjoy the home singing in the family room

Nadia says she looked at some 30 houses before deciding to own this one. "It was built five years ago, but has never been lived in. I liked it as soon as I saw it. It didn't need any repair."

She adds: "I really didn't want to move back to Ayala Heights. This has been our fourth house in the area. The previous three all sat on sloping soil, malas daw 'yon. This one is different—it sits on the highest point in Quezon City."

The furniture found in the house are items from Nadia's previous home as well as from Tanya's, and gifts from friends. "We just had our old couches re-upholstered. Tanya likes wood, so the pieces she has matched perfectly with the narra tables and chairs that Tita Annabelle (Rama, Yana's talent manager) gave me. Basically, we just want to have a clean look," says Nadia.

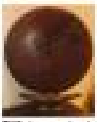
Most of the paintings are by former actor Dennis Bellosa, Nadia's co-host in the 1990s youth-oriented TV show "That's Entertainment." There are a few pieces that Nadia painted herself.

Also on display is Nadia's collection of Agaria sculptures, which she's had since her eldest daughter, Yana, was born. Tanya's wooden yin and yang figurines are displayed prominently in the living room.

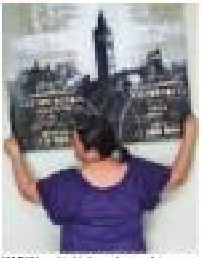
The white eight-seat dining set is from Play and Display. The chandelier is from Ambiance Lamps.

Nadia points out that cooking is her passion. "I still need to buy a lot of cooking appliances."

At the basement is the family room, where the kids play their game consoles and the grown-ups use the Jacuzzi. "On nights when we have a DVD marathon, some of Yana's friends just inflate air beds and sleep here," says Nadia.



THE yin-yang piece is from Nadia's sister Tanya.



NADIA bought this framed artwork to cover a "little secret" on the wall.



MOTHER and daughter sketch—a souvenir of their guesting in a GMA 7 morning show



YANA with niece Steph by the terrace, where the family likes to eat breakfast



ART pieces that Nadia painted herself



JACUZZI and sauna in the basement



TOP shot of the living room

On the same floor is the jacuzzi and sauna.

Yana says her bedroom, which she shares with Tanya, is the "coolest spot" in the house. "We don't turn the air-conditioning off. And the sunlight never gets in here," she explains. Their room is also the most colorful, with its light blue wall, fuchsia-colored sofa and aqua blue curtains. It also has framed photos of Yana and Mark Herras, her boyfriend and co-host on GMA 7's "Party Pilipinas."

Yana's sister Tanya's room is the cleanest. "She's always been OC. Plus she has a [illegible] now so she keeps the room extra clean. She likes the color lemon. If not for her lavender wall, her room would look like a spa," says Yana.

Yana couldn't move to the master bedroom because her dad, former Caloocan City mayor Macario "Boy" Asistio Jr., was visiting. "It has the best view of the city, especially at night. It's really very beautiful," recounts Yana.

E-mail: [illegible]@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Rosario A. Garcellano



Christmas talk with 'Harry Potter' stars and other celebs

LOS ANGELES— [illegible]

[illegible]

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

[illegible]



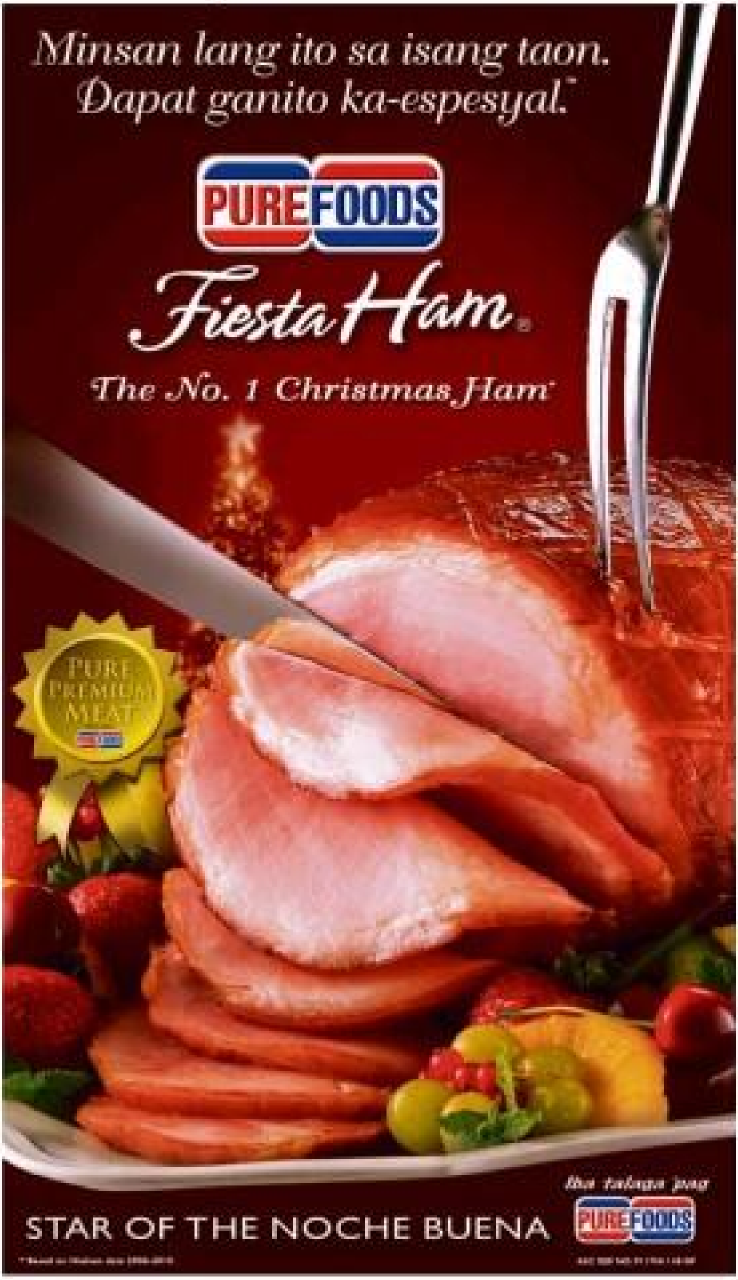
GEORGIE Henley

METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL

'Super Inday and the Golden Bibe'

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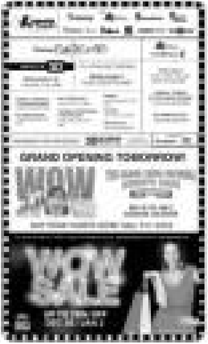






Christmas talk with 'Harry Potter' stars...





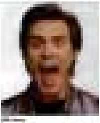




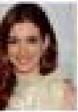








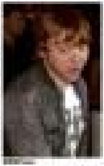

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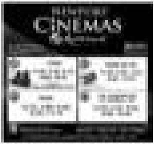


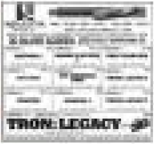









CINEMAS


TRON: LEGACY


POWER PLANT







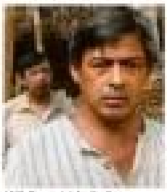
Ai Ai's holiday gift

Comedian shows seldom-seen serious side





Fil-Am war film targets schools



'We hope word gets around about how good the movie is'

